vogue under which senior citizens are identified, beat-wise and division-wise in every police Station. Beat staff of the Police Stations visits these senior citizens to offer them advice on security measures that should be taken.

(ii) During the beat and division patrolling, special vigil is maintained around the residences of senior citizens.

(iii) The antecedents of servants and others employed by elderly persons are verified.

(iv) The Chowkidars of the area have been briefed to keep an eye on the residences of this category of persons.

Illegal Entry of Sri Lankan Citizens

614. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Sri Lankan citizens living in Delhi illegally without any valid documents were arrested in July, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which they entered India;

(c) whether these citizens have since been deported to Sri Lanka, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Police arrested 10 Sri Lankan citizens on the 11th July, 1996 from a hotel where they were found to be staying without valid travel documents. During investigation, it was found out that they had reached Delhi on their way to Canada from Sri Lanka. They had travelled by ship to Madras and from Madras to Delhi by air.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Since all the accused ae facing trial in the court, they could not be deported. They were, however, released on bail in September/October, 1996 under the orders of the court. Look out cards in respect of them have been opened by the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (F.R.R.O.) to prevent their escape from the country.

Environmental Development Schemes

615. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the environmental development schemes in wild life centres in the country with the assistance of World Bank and Universal Environmental Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms adopted for the selection of Wild Life Centres for implementing the development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The India - Eco-development Project, with assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Development Association (IDA) is in the final stages of clearance. The project covers 7 wildlife protected areas, namely Buxa National Park (West Bengal), Gir National Park (Gujarat), Nagarhole National Park (Karnataka), Palamau National Park (Bihar), Pench National Park (Madhya Pradesh), Periyar National Park (Kerala) and Ranthambore National Park (Rajasthan). The total cost of the project over a 5-year period is US $ 67 million. The project will support eco-development activities in and around the selected protected areas to reduce the negative impacts of human activities on these areas. In addition, another eco-development project with assistance from IDA is under implementation in the Great Himalayan National Park (Himachal Pradesh) and Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) with a total outlay of US $ 5.3 million over a period of five years.

(c) Selection of project sites has been done on the basis of their biodiversity values and the availability of infrastructure and capacity to implement such projects.

Prices of Wheat and Rice

616. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the main reasons for increase in domestic prices of wheat and rice despite the bumper crops; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to check the domestic prices of wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The increase in prices of wheat and rice in the open market is due to the following factors :-

(i) Periodic Increase in Minimum Support Prices of Wheat and paddy for 1996-97 Rabi and Kaharif Seasons.

(ii) Increase in transport cost on account of hike in petroleum products.

(iii) Lower production of wheat in 1995-96 by 3.1 million tonnes.

(iv) Holding back surplus stocks at the village level in enticipation of higher prices in lean months.

(v) Holding back of stocks by exporters/traders anticipating higher prices.

(b) A constant watch is kept on the production levels and stocks of foodgrains and efforts are made to have sufficient stocks of foodgrains in Central Pool to ensure adequate availability of foodgrains. Open sale of wheat and rice is undertaken to curb the inflationery trend in the market. Central issue prices of wheat and rice for PDS/RPDS have not been increased after 1.2.1994.

Committee on Agricultural Production

617. SHRI NITISH KUMAR.
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARJ :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted an export committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to give suggestions for increasing the agricultural production in the country:

(b) if so, the names of the other members of the said committee and details of their specialisation in the agriculture sector;

(c) whether the committee has started its work; and

(d) if so, the time by which the committee would submit its report to the Government and details of the other assignments entrusted to the committee inter-alia suggestion for increasing the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Names of other members of the Committee are indicated at statemnt attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Committee is expected to submit its report within a period of six months of the date of its constitution. As per terms of reference the Committee is to suggest ways and means for increasing productivity in the less productive areas, which *inter-alia* includes parameters for indentifying low agricultural producing areas, research and extension programmes, marketing of agricultural produce etc.

STATEMENT

Names of the Members of the Committee

1	Dr. Murili Manohar Joshi Member Lok Sabha	
2.	Shri Satrughan Prasad Singh Member Lok Sabha	
3.	Shri Chitta Basu Member Lok Sabha	
4.	Shri Mehboob Zahedi Member Lok Sabha	
5.	Shri Tariq Anwar Member Lok Sabha	
6.	Shri S. Ramachandra Reddy Member Lok Sabha	
7.	Shri Som Pal Member Rajya Sabha	
8.	Shri Parag Chaliha, Member Rajya Sabha	
9.	Shri Narendra Kumar Pradhan Member Rajya Sabha	
10.	Dr. Diwakar Jha (Agro-Econ.) DLF Qutub Enclave, Gurgaon, Haryana.	
11.	Shri Goripathi Narasimha Raju Yadav (Representative NGO) Gudur, Distt., Krishna (A.P.)	
12.	Dr. Atul Anjan (Representative) of Rural Interests) A-265, Pandara Road, New Delhi.	
13.	Dr. M.G.K. Menon	
14.	Shri J.N.L. Srivastava, Addl. Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation.	
15.	D.D.C. (Crops), ICAR.	
16.	Joint Secretary (Crops) Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation.	Member Secretary

Forest Land for Airport

618. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sought permission for taking over about 1300 acres of land belonging to the Forest Department for the construction of the International Airport near Devanahalli, Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) After examination of the proposal, certain essential details pertaining to item-wise work to be carried out over forest land, lay out plan, cost benefit analysis for the project etc. have been found lacking. The State Government has been requested to furnish the lacking details on 8.7.1996. In the absence of the complete details from the State Government the question of taking a final decision on the proposal does not arise.

Training to Women in Agriculture profession

619. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the kind of education/training imparted to women in rural areas in the matters of modern techniques of agriculture and other allied professions;